



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Nashville District

DistrictDigest

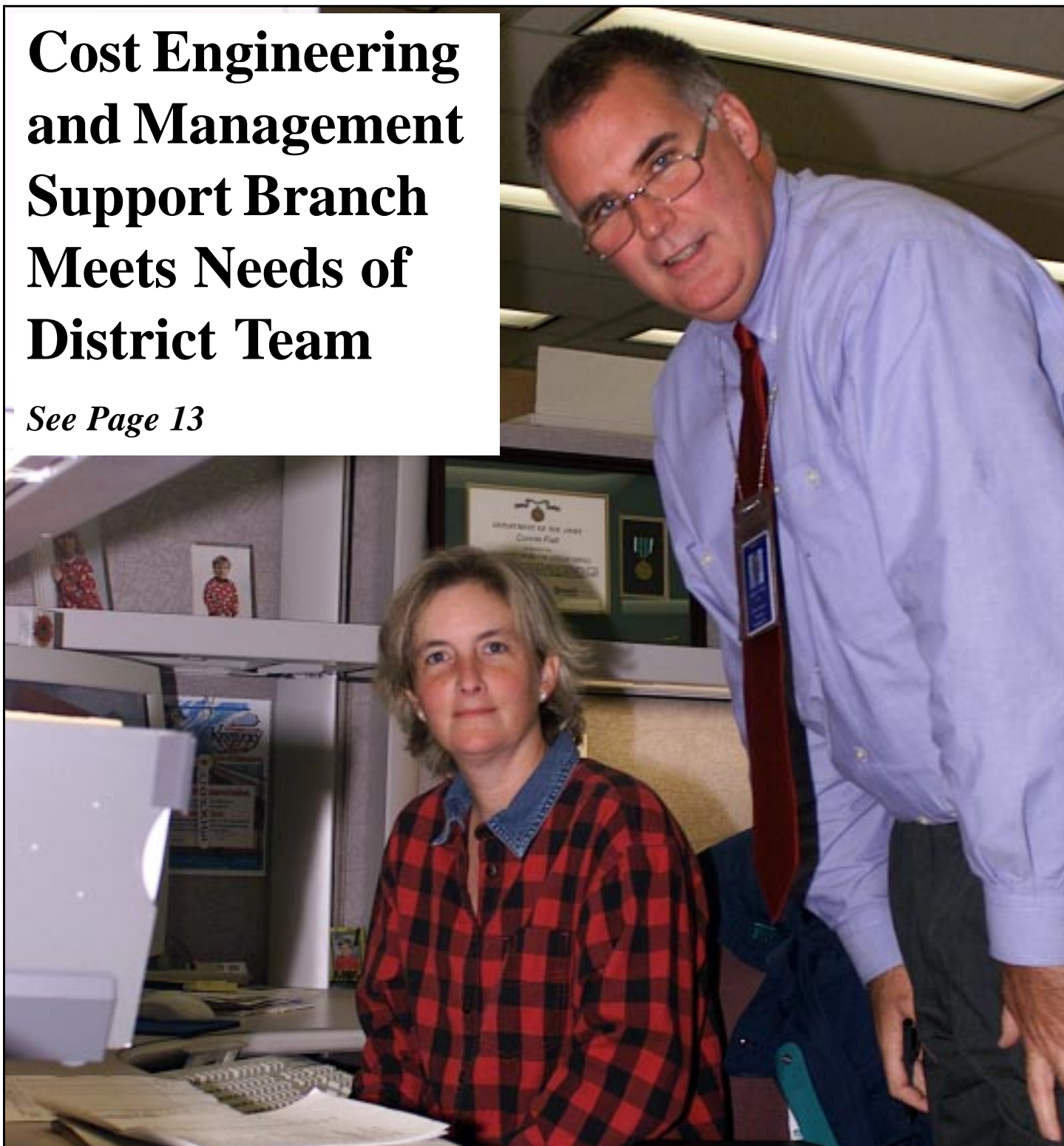
Volume 100, Number 11

Respected-Responsible-Reliable

November 2000

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On the Cover

Photo by Bill Peoples

Connie Flatt (left), civil engineer and Bill Fisher (right), chief, Cost Estimating and Management Support Branch discuss an A-E contract, which Flatt oversees.

DistrictDigest

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Thoughts From The Trail...



Hello, Nashville. As I write this column, it's mid-October and we still don't have our final budget for the new Fiscal Year (FY). However, our staff has worked the 2001 budget for some time and I think I can safely share some highlights of what our budget will be. Let me begin by stating that I'm optimistic that our budget will be finalized when this is published since the Corps' civil works budget was recently finalized by Congress and sent to the President for approval. Assuming this happens, then the budget is a good news story for Nashville District. For FY2001, our total program will be approximately \$130 million, a modest increase over last year. The budget contains a small increase for our Operations and Maintenance (O&M) program and includes, for the first time, dedicated funding for our efforts to address structural problems at Chickamagua Lock. In the Construction General appropriation, there's ample funding to keep Kentucky Lock moving at an accelerated schedule and funding for numerous other projects in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Alabama. We also have more than adequate funding for our General Investigations (GI) program. All in all, FY2001 looks quite good from a budget and project standpoint.

If we're just starting a new FY, then it means we just completed the last FY. By now you've probably heard that we had a successful yearend closeout, with our final execution percentages in the upper 90's (O&M finished at 99.6 percent). Achieving this level of execution was truly a team effort, with credit going to a host of folks in each office. On the Operations side, Debbie Groghan, Jim Deal, Philip Burney, and Holly Boland, Betty Enlow, Jeri Cook, Angela Knoth, Mildred Cabaniss, Teresa Perkins, and Lisa Christiansen made sure we could use every available dollar. In Engineering-Construction, Teresa Wilhite was the true hero, stepping in to fill Inez' shoes at yearend. Teresa received outstanding support from Sylvia Brown, Juanita Holt, Sherri Lampley, and Bill Fisher's entire team. As always, John Hall's environmental staff of Walter Green,

Tom McGee, and Allyn Allison exceeded our military customers' expectations with their yearend support. Similarly, Tom Pirkle, Johnny Wilmore, Donna Davis, Shirley Overby, and Betty Nicholson provided the same level of support for our construction and real estate customers. Getting the thousands of transactions processed to support yearend required great support from our contracting and RM staffs. In contracting, Jean Todd, Rita Goncalves, Maxie Covington, Beryl Newsome, Jim Cook, Kristal Jones, Harry Simmons, Ginny Selwyn, Leveda Parton, and Valerie Carlton proved again why they're so valuable to our team. Similarly in RM, Gail Floyd, Sandy Breault, Melissa Sager, Pauline Webb, Nancy Manahan, Danita Jones, BJ Fagan, and Janell Dickens worked incredible hours to support the entire District team. Finally, I need to recognize the efforts of Lyla Lewis, Victoria Caldwell, Paul Vandebunt, and Tom Cayce who provided the PM oversight to get dollars available where they could best be used. I know there are others who I didn't mention who also were integral to our yearend success. To the entire team I extend my sincere appreciation.

One final point on execution is that we'll repeat the same strategies in 2001 that enabled us to be so successful in FY2000. We'll continue to set high targets for execution goals, decentralize execution to the field wherever possible, spend more of our program earlier in the year (accelerate execution), and do a better job monitoring overhead rates throughout the year so that they don't fluctuate at yearend. On those rare occasions where we don't meet a target, we'll accept it without fanfare and move on. The bottom line is that the senior leadership and I are convinced that this approach will enable us to execute the most on our projects and thereby better meet our customers' expectations.

September and early October were busy for our Operations team. In late September they completed another successful lock dewatering, this time at Watts Bar. I visited Watts Bar early in the dewatering and was impressed with the team's



performance and its emphasis on safety. Several folks who deserve mention for our success at Watts Bar include the Lockmaster, Jim Mowery, and his staff; Bill Bennett; Roy Joines, Chief, Maintenance Section; Pete Leighty, Chief, Plant Section; John Lively, Chief, Florence Repair Station; project foremen Roy Hudgins, Ray Bryant and Freddie Whaley and their respective teams; Safety Officer (and Lockmaster at Old Hickory Lock) Bill Bennett, Jim Nunley, Charlie Bryan and Capt. Tom Battles and the Motor Vessel Warioto crew. Other folks from Physical Support Branch are supporting Capt. John Nunley and his crew aboard the Motor Vessel Iroquois as they dredge on the Cumberland River in the upper portion of the Barkley pool. The Operations team will remain busy for the next few months with a dewatering planned for Melton Hill that begins in late October and underwater repairs at Wolf Creek.

The District hosted two conferences in the past month. First, we hosted, on behalf of the Army and HQUSACE, the DA Safety Conference at Opryland in late September. A week later we hosted the Division's Natural Resources Conference at Lake Barkley. The District shined in supporting both conferences, primarily because of the work by Carol Warren, Janis Clark, John Tibbels, Lynn Bowden, Yvette Walker, Wayne Lanier, Larry Nash, and (Carol, can you help with names)... The District's own Deepwater Boys (Todd Yann, Ralph Ownby, Barney "Bassman" Davis, and Wayne Lanier) were a big hit at the Natural Resources Conference.

Last weekend I participated with several others as part of our Corporate Challenge team here in Nashville. The Corporate

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Parking Survey Completed: Committee Makes Recommendations

Story and Photos by Bill Peoples

The leadership of the Nashville District recently completed a survey of the parking issues in the District and is now considering the recommendations of the Parking Committee in order to address the concerns regarding parking.

The survey was available to everyone in the District via the Internet. There were 211 respondents or about 63 percent. Respondents were also able to make comments on many of the questions, which proved to be very insightful.

"I think we had a good response to the survey," Mike Zoccola, deputy chief, Engineering Division and chairman of the Parking Committee. "I think it is a good reflection of how people in the District Office feel about parking. The comments, which we received were especially helpful in grasping what concerns are out there. The survey and the comments support what everybody has pretty much thought about parking. It has gotten to be a real problem around here, both the supply and the cost."

Parking for employees and visitors of the Federal Building has been an issue for several years, and recently has become worse with the demolition of several parking areas to make way for new

development.

"For many of our employees, parking is the single most frustrating aspect of coming to work downtown," said Lt. Col. Pete Taylor, district commander, Nashville District. "When I got here a year and three months ago, I received many comments about how I could make our workplace better and the number one comment was parking, followed by building conditions. Let me say that despite many comments about moving to another facility, that at least now in the short-term moving is not a viable alternative. Parking and work environment affect our employees' morale and how they perform their job, and I'm committed to pursuing the alternatives that are feasible."

Revolutionize Effectiveness

Most issues brought out in the survey have been concerns that have been talked about by District Office staff members over the years, but there were some surprises.

"The thing that surprised me was the large number of people who expressed interest in mass transit and there was also a lot of interest in satellite parking with shuttle service," said Zoccola. "Fifty-three people said they were interested in using mass transit if the Corps subsidized it, and another 61 were not sure. So if most of the 53 and some of the 61 would take advan-

tage of mass transit that is a pretty good number to work with. The transit subsidies are also a reality now."

The use of mass transit by federal workers now has an additive incentive since April when President Clinton signed an executive order authorizing transit subsidies to be paid to federal workers who use mass transit to commute to work. The Mass Transportation Benefit Program went into effect on Oct. 1.

"The way the Army and Corps decided to implement it is a allow up to \$65 a month as a nontaxable benefit to be used for mass transit services and here in Nashville that would be van pools and buses," said Kathryn Firsching, attorney, Office of Counsel and member of the Parking Committee. "For those already using mass transit, there is a one-page application, which I sent out on email. You can fill that out and submit it to Danny Hampton, chief of Resource Management, to begin the benefit."

Applications for the Mass Transportation Benefit Program can be obtained from Firsching or Hampton. Other members of the Parking Committee in addition to Zoccola and Firsching are JoAnne Mann, Bill Vecchione and Connie Flatt.

The Parking Committee made several recommendations to the District Commander after reviewing the survey including: pursuing to negotiate and subsidize a surface lot within walking distance to the Federal Building to which a key component would be security of vehicles; pursuing to negotiate and subsidize a surface satellite lot and run a shuttle between it and the Federal Building; doing a feasibility study of a shuttle from Old Hickory Lake and J. Percy Priest Lake resource manager's offices to the Federal Building; bringing in a representative from the Metro Transit Authority to educate employees on bus service available to the building (which is now scheduled for Nov. 8); provide parking for motorcycles in the parking GSA garage; looking into ways of providing visitor parking for those doing business with the Corps; and continue to move elements of the District Office to Old Hickory or J. Percy Priest.

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The closest Daily Pay Parking Lot to the Federal Building is along 8th Avenue South and Demonbreun Street and fills up quickly in the morning.

The Last of These Is Dick Copeland

by Ed Evans

When Area Superintendent Dick Copeland retired Sept. 28 at Old Hickory Lake Power Plant, the era of the “four strangers” ended. He was the last one.

It was April 2, 1962 when four strangers reported to the Student Generating Power plant Training Class at Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), located at Hales Bar Dam on the Tennessee River, near Chattanooga.

Over the next 38 years, their paths would cross repeatedly. At one time or another, they each worked at the Corps’ Barkley Power plant, Grand Rivers, Ky.

Invest in People

By 1989, the group of four supervised all nine of the District’s hydropower dams between them; Dick Copeland, Bruce Dunn, Lynn Collett, and Doug Kee. In a newspaper interview that year, Copeland said of the group, “We can be honest with each other, like no one else.” Noting that the operation of the nine dams affect the lives of millions, Copeland explained it was important they be able to listen to each other, take suggestions and criticism as brotherly advice.

This takes on added importance since the Cumberland River, site of all nine dams, is operated as one system, from its beginning in the mountains of eastern

Kentucky, through Tennessee, to where it empties into the Ohio River near Paducah in western Kentucky. Eventually the other supervisors all retired.

That Copeland had started out in a TVA training class isn’t very surprising. While he was growing up, Dick’s father was a TVA public safety officer, and his uncle supervised three TVA power plants on the Tennessee River.

It was after graduating Polk County High School in 1959, and attending the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, that he applied for the TVA class in 1962. His TVA assignments included Jackson, Tenn.; Florence, Tenn.; Huntsville, Ala.; and Gallatin, Tenn. In October 1966, he answered a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers call for experienced hydropower employees and transitioned to the Corps’ Barkley Dam, in Kentucky, as a power plant operator. It was in February 1967 he moved to the Old Hickory, Tenn., power plant. A year later, he was promoted to Assistant Superintendent and the 26-year-old Dick Copeland became the youngest power plant superintendent in the nation. In 1969, he assisted in “bringing in” the J. Percy Priest turbine, and oversaw the remote operations setup for Priest and Cheatham Power Plants. In 1977, he assumed what would be his final position as the Area Superintendent for Tennessee’s Old Hickory, J. Percy Priest



Photo by Bill Peoples

Dick Copeland, former Area Power Plant Superintendent, who recently retired leaves a legacy of professional expertise and experience in hydropower production.

and Cheatham Power Plants.

Opting not to have a retirement ceremony, Copeland wrote in a memo to his power plant employees of 23 years, “I am not very good at speeches, especially when it’s my retirement. Each and every one of you mean a lot to me and always will and each for different reasons which are too numerous to go into now.”

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Thoughts From the Trail

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Challenge was an annual athletic competition between different firms in town. Jim Deal captained our team and did a great job of enlisting participants. Others who enjoyed the Saturday competition included Maj. Shelton, Lyla Lewis, Doug Mellendore, Carrie Knapp, Kathryn Firsching, Kathy McClanahan, Jay Sadler, Warren Bennett, Tom Waters, Dave Day, Gary House, Mike Wilson, Cayce Tiesler, Bill Barnes, Dan Hampton, Jody Stanton, Janie Billingsley, Sue Crofutt, Joanne Mann, Todd Hagan, Doug Delong and retiree, Bill Fanning. While we didn’t win our division, we finished a respectable 4th

place, missing 3d place by a single point. My thanks to all those who participated.

If you haven’t already participated in our Leadership Development Program (LDP), then I encourage you to apply. We’ve had an LDP program for the past three years and it’s been a huge success. Each LDP class consists of 12 students selected from across the District based upon their desire to participate, their performance, and recommendations from supervisors. The program includes a series of classes (leadership, management, communications, and business processes, and others the class selects) conducted at a local university and a group project.

Participants receive developmental assignments after graduating from the academic portion of the program. Participating in the LDP program is hard work and requires significant commitment on the student’s part. However, every participant I’ve spoken with tells me that the effort has been more than worth it. If you’re interested contact our PM for the LDP program, Jody Stanton, for more details or an application.

Well I suppose that I’ve reached my word limit for this month’s edition. Until next month, keep up the super work, keep safety in mind in all that you do, and continue to “lead the way, Nashville.” □

Recent Air Quality Problems Being Addressed

Story and Photos by Bill Peoples

On August 13, a water supply line burst on the floor of the Federal Building Annex flooding parts of the fourth, fifth and sixth floors. In the clean-up process, large floor fans were brought in to help dry out flooded areas. Shortly after the fans were put into operation, several people complained of medical conditions ranging from headaches to respiratory problems. In order to determine the problem, Gobbell Hays Partners, Inc was hired to perform a comprehensive air quality study of the fourth, fifth and sixth floors.

"We contracted with Gobbell Hays Partners to do the study and they began work on the afternoon of the Aug. 21," said John Tibbels, Jr., manager, Safety and Occupational Health Office. "They came in and did the standard air quality tests. They began with temperature, humidity, and carbon dioxide levels. Subsequently, they did air sampling and bulk or dust samples from floors, carpet, filters, and wall units, including inside some of the ventilation ducts. They also checked for bacteria, fungi and mold spores. The contractor also had a professional engineer/ventilation specialist who checked the air handlers for all three floors, which are located in the basement."

The contractor's inspection was thorough and there report substantiated the present of some contamination in some limited areas.

"They did pick up some mold contamination in several of the areas and couple of the areas were considered elevated," said Tibbels. "The contractor made some recommendations to improve the air quality in the building."

The recommendations included: regular maintenance of the filters in the air handling units and the installation of higher efficiency filters; clean all perimeter HVAC fan coil units and the interior of the air handling equipment; where visible microbial growth is noted install "Wagner Kontrolle Pan Pills" to control growth; repair leaks around windows; continued



The air handler unit for the sixth floor, which is located on the roof of the Annex, is one of the systems, which was checked during the Air Quality Survey.

monitoring of comfort levels such as relative humidity, temperature and carbon dioxide; supply duct work should be cleaned; contaminated ceiling tiles in the basement should be replaced; and older carpet should be thoroughly cleaned with microbialcide and possibly replaced when considering renovations.

Invest in People

The next step is contacting GSA and advising them of the recommendations of the contractor.

"We have sent a letter to GSA asking for a mid-October reply," said Lt. Col. Pete Taylor, district commander, Nashville District. "We said 'here are the findings we have from the A-E,' and asked GSA to come back to us with a detailed plan of how they intend to fix the problems and a timeline to do so. If they come back to us saying they can't do it or can't do it in what we think is a timely manner, then we will ask authority to do it ourselves. If we have to, we will scope the work and bring someone into fix the problems on our

floors. Most of the findings are things that are easily fixed with exception of fixing the windows in the building. That one is probably beyond our means. What we hope is that GSA will come back with a proposal to fix these problems for both buildings."

About six people reported symptoms during the clean-up process. When these symptoms were initially reported, the Executive Office took immediate actions to identify and rectify the problem and to turn the findings over to GSA for resolution.

"I think what we have done so far has been a very proactive response to the problem," said Taylor. "When you have several employees with the types of medical complaints that

we received, we knew we needed to do something immediately. We got the A-E in here even before the clean-up process was complete to take samples and look things over. Whether GSA or we fix the problems, I think we can take care of them or most of them during the next few months." □

Copeland

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He added, "You've done yourselves proud and in the process made me look better than I deserve. My, it only seems like yesterday that I came into our three plant complex, wet behind the ears but somehow you managed to keep me straight, at least most of the time. Through it all, we have survived the good times, bad times and sad times. I guess that's the way life is supposed to be."

The era ends. Until the last few years, when the electricity clicked on in the Cumberland River Basin, the professional expertise of Copeland, Dunn, Collett, and Kee stood behind it. And the last of these is Dick Copeland. □



Ground Broken for Millstone Septic System

Story and Photos by Ed Evans

On Aug. 9th, Millstone, Ky., an area reached only by long, winding roads along the banks of polluted rivers, played host to several local, state and federal officials as part of the Millstone Community Cluster Septic System Project groundbreaking ceremony.

Part of U.S. Rep. Harold

Left: U.S. Rep. Harold Rogers, Kentucky's Fifth District congressman, emphasizes the importance of Millstone Community Cluster Septic System Project and its goal of ending pollution along North Fork of the Kentucky River.

Rogers' PRIDE project, this portion is designed to end pollution in the North Fork of the Kentucky River caused by straight pipes dumping household sewage directly into the river. PRIDE stands for Personal Responsibility In a Desirable Environment. In this case, such pollution over the years has led to local health hazards and aquatic degradation.

The Corps' project manager for this innovative cluster septic system, Jay Sadler, said the project involves the use of three 6,000-gallon septic tanks, three 4,500-gallon dosing tanks, a sewer pipe, manholes and service laterals, in addition to 60 peat modules, an ultraviolet system, and a cascading outfall discharge point. The peat modules and the ultraviolet system are to be located on the abandoned railroad bed, above the flood plain, located near the North Fork of the Kentucky River at river mile 415.2.

Sadler indicated existing vegetation along adjacent stream banks of the North Fork would be maintained for bank stabilization and to provide a vegetative filter for storm water runoff.

The project will remove 30 straight pipe sewage discharges from the river, reducing related health hazards. These first 30 to be removed are part of a larger number from areas to include Jeremiah and Isom, Ky. □

Left: Dignitaries including Lt. Col. Pete Taylor (third from left), district commander, Nashville District and U.S. Rep. Harold Rogers (fourth from left) break ground for the Millstone Community Cluster Septic System Project.



I'm a Farmer?

by James Gunnels

If you had told me I would be a “farmer” a few years ago, I would have probably said, “You are crazy”. Well, the way I understand it, I have been a farmer for several years now. Let me explain. It is my understanding that in order to be considered a “farmer” you must have at least five acres of land and “livestock”. I have seven and one quarter acres of land but I did not know that I had several thousand head of “livestock”. Well, actually I did know but I did not know that honeybees are considered as “livestock”. Several years ago, (approximately six to ten), a hive of honeybees moved into a hollow tree behind my garage. Last year that tree died. This spring the top of the tree blew out. It broke off approximately three feet above the hole where the bees were going in and out. I remember my dad saying that bees almost always go in and build up from where they enter. After seeing where the tree broke off, I knew that the top of the hive was exposed to the rain and weather. I was concerned that they would swarm and leave for a more suitable location. I knew nothing about bees but I wanted to keep them if I could.

On May 13, John Sharpe and Fred Corley came to see my bees. John is retired and an active “bee” man for Breedens Orchards in Mt. Juliet. Fred is a close friend that I grew up with and he has just recently acquired some bees. John said that the hive was too high to work with so the only way to get them would be to cut down the tree. Since the tree was already dead, I took my chainsaw, notched it, and cut it down. When the tree fell, the top broke out, flipped over and landed with the hole facing up. It broke approximately 2 feet below the hole where the bees were going in and out. The hive was completely contained in this 5-foot long section of the tree. We could look into each end of the log and see bees and the honeycomb. The bees seem to be very gentle and did not even get very upset when we cut down the tree. We left the hive lying on the ground



Photo by Jerekay Gunnels

John Sharpe (left), Randy Rowe (obscured from view) and James Gunnels, open an old log in order to vacuum out the bees so that they and the hive can be placed in a standard commercial beehive.

from Saturday until Tuesday so John could get his bee vacuum that someone had borrowed.

On Tuesday afternoon, May 16, John Sharpe and Randy Rowe, president of the Wilson County Beekeeper Society, came over and we began the process of removing the bees from the log and placing them in a standard beehive body with frames. Fred had to work late and was not able to come but did get there before we finished. We took John's bee smoker, smoked the bees, started vacuuming them into John's bee vacuum, and sliced the top of the log open with a chainsaw. John cut a strip out of the top of the log about 4 inches wide and just through the top of the log. This slice ran the entire length of the log. This allowed access to the bees and honeycomb. We wanted to save as much of the honeycomb (and bees) as possible because it contained eggs and emerging bees (brood). If this were not done, the hive population would probably almost die out before new eggs could be laid and mature. A bee only lives about 3 to 6 weeks in the summer and it takes 21 days for the queen to lay eggs and for them to mature and hatch. At best it would have been drastically affected and the number of bees reduced. We cut the existing honeycomb loose from the side of the log and then into sections that would fit into the frames of a regular beehive body. We

attached these sections to standard hive frames with rubber bands and then set them into the new hive body. The honeycomb was lying in layers (one on top of the other) inside the log and the layers ran the full length of the log. While John and Randy did this, I vacuumed bees. This process continued for two and one half-hours as we removed the entire hive and placed it into frames. Once we finished, we sprayed the bees (that I had vacuumed) with sugar water so they could not fly (until they dried off) and then we poured them into the new hive body. We never saw the queen so we were not sure if we got her, or if she was injured in this whole process but we felt like she must be there. The next morning the bees had already started carrying debris out of the hive that had been vacuumed (saw dust, etc). They began gathering pollen and nectar and looked like any other beehive.

Invest in People

On May 27, John and Fred came over and we opened up the hive to inspect it and see how they were doing. We found new eggs and new brood. The bees had been busy repairing the damage that we did in removing them from the log and were filling in with new honeycomb between the existing honeycomb and the new hive frames. Everything looks good.

Continued on next page

Don't Share That E-Mail!

by Ed Evans

A child is missing, possibly abducted. It's a heart-wrenching story and that e-mail you just received is either from someone you know, or someone who means well. All they want you to do is send the e-mail to everyone you know and help find this child.

WAIT! Don't do it, at least until you have checked it out. There are all sorts of out-of-date appeals, outright bogus stories and other time wasters and computer memory gobblers zipping through the internet. One story, about a child missing from Michigan, has been floating in cyberspace since Oct. 12, 1999. This child was returned to her parents shortly after she was reported missing. That has been verified. Unfortunately, the e-mail alert has continued all the way to Australia, Europe and back to the U.S.

"These are called urban legends viruses and many times they can have a real virus attached to them," said Bryan Deem, information security officer, Nashville District. "You should treat them like a regular virus and delete it. Don't send it to anyone. Many times an innocuous file is used to send virus."

These types of emails and chain letter emails can jam up an e-mail system possibly disabling it or doing other damage.

"Our policy for chain letters and these urban legend-type emails is to delete them and do not spread them," said Deem. "At

the very least these files clog-up our email system and at the very worst can carry a virus that will wipe out your computer. If you receive a virus of this type, you can notify the IM Helpdesk or myself so that we are aware of you having received one of these emails, but you should delete it first."

It is difficult for the average person to ignore these types of pleas since they tug at the heart. However, for future reference, there are several sites that can be checked to see if this latest request for help is legitimate, and to find out if this hoax may even be virus-related.

One of the most extensive is: <http://urbanlegends.about.com/culture/beliefs/urbanlegends/> — Urban Legends and Folklore.

For a list specifically devoted to purported missing children, go to: <http://urbanlegends.about.com/science/urbanlegends/library/blxkids.htm> — Net Hoaxes, Urban Legends and Rumors — Sick, Dying & Missing Kids

Here are some more sites to check to see if what you have received is a hoax or possibly a very real virus:

<http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/> — Symantec Anti-Virus Research Center

<http://www.datafellows.fi/virus-info/> — F-Secure Computer Virus Info Center

<http://www.newthought.net/e-mailhoaxes.htm> — First Aid for Hoaxity Attacks

<http://hoaxbusters.ciac.org/> — Hoaxbusters

<http://www.ou.edu/oupd/vhoac.htm> —

NOTICE

All DOD computer systems, including all related equipment, networks and network devices (including internet access) are provided only for authorized U.S. Government use. DOD computer systems may be monitored for all lawful purposes, including to ensure their use is authorized, for management of the system, to facilitate protection against unauthorized access, and to verify security procedures, survivability, and operational security. Monitoring includes, but is not limited to, active attacks by authorized DOD entities to test or verify the security of any DOD system. During monitoring, information may be examined, recorded, copied, and used for authorized purposes. All information, including personal information, placed on or sent over any DOD system may be monitored. Unauthorized use of a DOD computer system may subject you to criminal prosecution. Evidence of unauthorized use collected during monitoring may be used for administrative, criminal or other adverse action. Use of all DOD computer systems, authorized or unauthorized, constitutes consent to monitoring for all lawful purposes.

The Police Notebook

<http://www.pb.org/virus.html> — Email Virus Hoaxes

<http://www.cknow.com/kumite.htm> — Virus Myths

Here are three more great sites for hoaxes and scams of all sorts, not just computer related: <http://urbanlegends.about.com/culture/beliefs/urbanlegends/> — Urban Legends and Folklore — In the Spotlight, <http://snopes.com/> — Urban Legends Reference Pages, <http://www.nonprofit.net/hoax/hoax.html> — Don't Spread That Hoax! (Hoax Catalog) □

Continued From Page 8

We did not see the queen but she appears to be active and working.

A couple of times each month I open the hive and inspect it. I want to make sure that the queen is still laying eggs and that there are no signs of disease. The hive looks good and seem to be thriving. The extremely dry weather we have experienced this summer has drastically reduced the amount of pollen and nectar for the bees to use to make honey. I seriously doubt if I will harvest any honey this year. I have a lot to learn about bees and I am having fun being a "farmer". □



Photo by Jerekay Gunnels

A portion of the honeycomb taken from the log is attached to standard frame with rubber bands. Eventually the bees will cement the honeycomb in place and cut and discard the rubber bands.

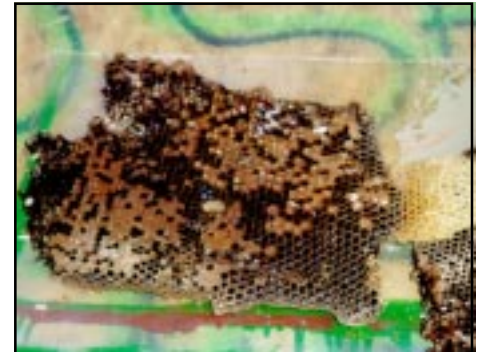


Photo by Jerekay Gunnels

The honeycomb saved from a dead log is cut into sections in order to put it in the standard commercial beehive frames.

Goodwill Industries Provides

by Larry Cook

The Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program recently celebrated its fifth annual National JWOD Week, on Oct. 9-15. The Nashville District also celebrated since the District participates in the JWOD program locally. Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee provides services to the District through the JWOD program.

Named for its enabling legislation, the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act of 1971, 41 U.S.C. 46-48c, the JWOD Program creates jobs and training opportunities for people who are blind or who have other severe disabilities. Its primary means of doing so is by requiring Government agencies to purchase selected products and services from nonprofit agencies employing such individuals. As a result, JWOD employees are able to lead more productive, independent lives.

Randy Myers, project manager for Goodwill Industries, is responsible for the support provided the District office with a very capable and special staff.



Photo by Bill Peoples

(Left to right) Don McMillan, Ken Jacobs, James Williams and Jarius Johnson, all of Goodwill Industries, work in the Supply Center and handle a variety of functions including receiving new equipment and supplies to issuing vehicles.

Randy's assistant, Jonathan Grunau, handles the mail center. Working with Jonathan are

Phillip Sanford and Theodore Caldwell who provide mail clerk and messenger services. We



Photo by Bill Peoples

Phillip Sanford (left) and Jonathan Grunau (right), Goodwill contractors, work in the Mail Center, which processes all the incoming and outgoing mail for the District Office.

usually see them delivering mail, but this job goes way beyond that. It also includes: sorting, processing, folding inserts, stuffing envelopes, packaging outgoing materials, metering, picking up incoming and dropping off outgoing mail from the postal service. They transmit, receive and deliver faxes, and process overnight/express mail in and out of the district office.

Patricia Hunt

handles the forms room and navigation chart sales. Vernell Murphy helps Hunt when not working in the word processing center. They order, receive, and ship forms within the district. They also maintain a ready supply of repetitively used forms. They meet customer needs for maps, charts and information on rivers controlled by the Corps by selling the appropriate charts or redirecting request to appropriate offices. They also lend a hand in the Mail Center with the folding and inserting requirements for processing out going mail.

The Supply Center is manned by Ken Jacobs, Don McMillan, James Williams and Jarius Johnson. They provide support in the areas of parking space control, key control, vehicle

s Special Support to District



Photo by Bill Peoples

Randy Myers, project manager, Goodwill Industries, oversees a diverse operation, which supports the Nashville District. Goodwill runs the Mail Center, the Supply Center, the Map and Chart Sales Department and the Volunteer Clearinghouse.

scheduling and issuing, stocking and issuing limited supply items, moving, assembling and removing furniture, receiving goods via truck lines on the rear loading dock, conference room scheduling and set up, audio visual equipment issue and control, administrative and physical support of property disposal and transport, and finally, they see to the vehicle fleet's maintenance.

Revolutionize Effectiveness

Gayla Mitchell handles the nationwide Volunteer Clearinghouse, providing customer service by issuing written and verbal information on the Corps of Engineers Volunteer program. Mitchell uses the postal system to provide information to a constantly changing database of potential volunteers on nationwide opportunities to work within the Corps on a volunteer basis.

The JWOD program provides employment and job training for people who are blind or who

have other disabilities. This year's theme, "Work is the Key" addressed the high rate of unemployment among people with severe disabilities, estimated at 70 percent. Through the JWOD program, more than 33,000 people who are blind or have other disabilities produce products and provide services to the federal government.

Myers and the Goodwill contingent are proud of their support to the District. Myers would bust a button or two introducing his staff and discussing their work. So the next time Myers or one his staffs helps you out, thank them for their excellent support to the Nashville District or go by Room 682 in the Estes Kefauver Federal Building, on the 6th floor, and let Myers show you around his area. □

Photo by Bill Peoples

Theodore Caldwell, is the primary mail clerk for Goodwill Industries and is seen daily in the halls of the federal building picking up and delivering mail.



Photo by Bill Peoples

Gayla Mitchell, a contractor with Goodwill Industries, oversees the nationwide Volunteer Clearinghouse, which matches volunteers with Corps lakes around the country.



Workers Improve Riding Trail at J. Percy Priest Lake

Story and Photos by Dave Treadway

The Twin Forks Equestrian Trail along the east fork of the Stones River on J. Percy Priest Lake got a facelift on Saturday, Sept. 23, as Rangers from the Corps of Engineers joined local volunteers during National Public Lands Day 2000.

Under heavy clouds and a threat of rain, work began at the East Fork Recreation Area at 9 a.m. with chain saws, tree loppers and mattocks.

"We want to make the entire trail usable to the public," said Corps Park Ranger Scott Fanning. "Much of it is in excellent condition and is used by hikers and riders on horseback but there are areas where the trail is choked with brush and overgrown with weeds. That's what we're clearing today."

Scoutmaster Thomas Harding brought two Boy Scouts from Troop 106 in Murfreesboro along with one parent and grandparents to work from the Walter Hill trailhead. They cleaned trash from alongside the trail and cleared away brush. According to Harding, the Scouts enjoy

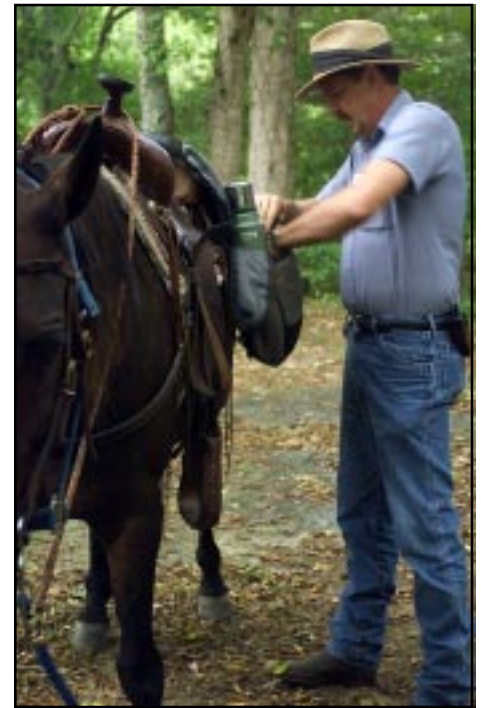
hiking along the scenic river route.

Ed Elam, of Watertown, Tenn., brought along his two horses, Sissy and Sassy, which he and his wife, Teresa, frequently ride along the shaded river trail. From the back of Sissy, Ed was able to easily lop off high branches that needed to be cut and then tossed them aside.

"My wife and I ride here often," said Ed, "so I am particularly pleased that work is being done to open more of the trail. We were riding here recently and came upon a man with a chain saw who was clearing items from the trail. I was surprised he was using a chain saw since use of those is normally prohibited except by a Corps Ranger. Well, he stopped the chain saw and I thought he was doing so because we had come upon him doing something illegal. We started talking and he introduced himself as Bill Colvin, Resource Manager for the Lake. I was impressed that the Resource Manager would make such an effort on behalf of riders and hikers."

Rain fell heavier as work progressed but horses and men continued to clear trail

along the east fork of the Stones. Park Rangers Fanning, Mark Vaughn, Robert Davis, and John Baird, were joined by Park Contract Administrator Mike Hight to cut the larger trees as Dave Treadway joined Elam on horseback to lop off higher branches that threatened to unseat unwary riders. An older portion of the trail that branches off an agricultural roadway and parallels the river had become choked with weeds and debris and consequently not used. Saturday's work made it an attractive addition with excellent access to the river on the south



Ed Elam of Watertown, Tenn., adjusts equipment on his mare, Sissy, Sept. 23, before beginning work on the Twin Forks Equestrian Trail as a volunteer at National Public Lands Day.

bank across from the Mona Boat Ramp. Though foliage prevented viewing it, riders could easily hear traffic proceeding on Jefferson Pike just off the north bank.

The power saw team then encountered a huge forked oak, its sides blackened by fire, that had recently fallen, completely blocking the trail. "We had our work cut out for us on that one," said Vaughn, "but we chopped it up in pieces and finally got it out of the way."

Seek Growth Opportunities

Saturday's efforts, in spite of the rain, cleared at least two miles of the 18-mile trail over a period of five hours and opened a section of the old trail along the river that had been badly overgrown. Open glades just off the trail now invite riders and hikers to stop for lunch or even to fish from the south bank.

Elam enjoys the view from horseback. "My wife and I ride here often," he said, "and we often see wildlife. I have seen deer and turkey. There must have been forty turkeys in one flock we spotted.

"Some people golf, others hunt or fish. Me, I would rather ride horses for relax-

Continued on Page 19
See Trail



Corps of Engineers Ranger Scott Fanning discusses work to be done Sept. 23 during National Public Lands Day with Watertown resident Ed Elam who used the vantage point aboard his mare Sissy to cut branches that blocked the Twin Forks Equestrian Trail.

Cost Engineering and Management Support Branch Meets Needs of District Team

Story and Photo by Bill Peoples

With eyes on a crystal ball and ears quietly attuned to District needs, the sixteen members of the Cost Engineering and Management Support Branch provide a variety of services and support to others in the District.

The branch, which is affectionately known around the District as “Bill Fisher’s group” provides a wide range of services. When a project begins in the District, the call goes out to Fisher’s group.

“The Cost Engineering and Management Support Branch is just that, a support branch, which serves the other branches in the Engineering Division as well as the Project Management Division,” said Bill Fisher, chief, Cost Engineering and Management Support Branch. “We provide nine different functions to the District: Cost Estimating, A-E Support, Specifications, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Relocations, Surveying, Military Installation Support and CADD System Support.”

As the work force has been reduced in the Corps, Districts have turned to A-E firms to perform work that once may have been performed by in-house engineers. Now because of increasing workloads and sometimes the need for expertise not found in-house, most project teams heavily use A-Es.

“We have six large A-E teams working on Kentucky Lock, and it takes a lot of time to keep them focused and producing work,” said Don Getty, project manager, Kentucky Lock. “Bill Fisher’s group does an outstanding job in keeping up with the A-E contracts, and producing work for Kentucky Lock. Bill Vecchione and Connie Flatt do the contract administration; Buddy Abbott is the technical lead on several of our big contracts; Tram Pollock has the technical lead on one of our task orders and does all the cost estimating; and Jose Garcia does our contract specifications, which are critical when we are trying to get a construction contract out. Without Bill Fisher’s group, Kentucky

Lock would be in a world of hurt. I guarantee you. We have some very tight deadlines, and there is nobody better than Bill Fisher’s shop in getting a project out on a tight deadline.”

Because Fisher’s group manages A-E contracts for the District, it must be very in tune with the workload of District and what work may be starting.

“This crystal ball on my desk is very symbolic of what we do in this branch,” said Fisher. “We are always trying to see into the future and be one step ahead of the needs of the other branches and our project teams. One thing we did this past year and are about to do again is have a meeting with all the branch chiefs in Engineering and the folks in Plans, Programs and Project Management Division to look at our workload for this year and decide what we want to do in-house and what we want to contract out to an A-E. We then know early in the year what the bulk of our A-Es needs will be during the year. From a Branch prospective we can also better plan our work because we will know big picture.”

Revolutionize Effectiveness

One of the main functions of the branch is to prepare cost estimates for contracts in order to have a basis of what is a fair and reasonable cost for the government to pay for a given service. Bob Bowles, Tram Pollock and Gary Stinson are the cost engineers along with Johnny Parham who is currently on a developmental assignment in the Plans, Programs and Project Management Division.

“We take a project from the planning stage all the way through bid opening to plans and specs,” said Tram Pollock, cost engineer, as she explained the cost estimating process. “We develop a fair and reasonable estimate to make sure that what we are getting is worth the value. We develop a reasonable estimate based on prevailing labor rates, materials and equipment rates. We also determine the approximate engineering during construction costs, engineering planning costs and construction management costs. Most of

it is a best guess based on your experience, historical data and vendor quotes.”

Because the District uses many A-E firms as adjunct staff in many instances, it is important to be able to match a project with the right firm for the job. This is done through A-E contracts, through which the Corps contracts with an A-E firm for architectural and engineering services.

“There are three of us who do A-E contract management, Bill Vecchione, Kimberly Spicer and myself, and we have roughly the same responsibilities,” said Connie Flatt, civil engineer. “We get what are called Indefinite Delivery Contracts in place. We try to project district workload because it takes about six months to get these types of contracts in place. We have a list of contracts that we keep current for each branch and for project managers. It is sometimes a guessing game to match Fisher’s Group the capacity and type of the contract with the workload. We handle pretty much all the A-E contracts for the District except for the contracts used by the Environmental Restoration Branch.

Continued on Page 19
See Fisher’s Group



Gary Stinson (left) and Bob Bowles, (right) both cost estimators with the Cost Estimating and Management Support Branch, look over a project, which they are cost estimating.



Dave Hendrix demonstrates his power serve, which helped him win the recent Tennessee State Handball Tournament in singles and doubles for his division.



The handball is made of rubber, measures 1 7/8 inches in diameter and weighs about 1.5 to 1.75 ounces. Gloves are worn to keep moisture from affecting the ball.



Dave Hendrix (left) and his opponent for this game, skillfully maneuver around the court to keep ball in play using a combination of dexterity, speed, endurance, and power.

Hendrix is Playing Hard When He is Not Working Hard

Story and Photos by Bill Peoples

Whack!..Whamp!..Uggah! are heard as a man, dressed in a white t-shirt, red shorts, and wearing a plastic visor and fraying leather gloves, flings himself across a hardwood floored court to hit a small blue ball as he skillfully avoids running into his opponent or the wall. Well, most of time. The “uggah” was him hitting the wall.

While many Corps employees prefer a milder form of recreation, Dave Hendrix, team leader for the Flood Plain Management Services Section, Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch, takes his exercise and frustrations out with a small ball on a court, which is four-sided and measures 40 feet long, 20 feet wide and 20 feet high, with a back wall 12 to 14 feet high. He is a handball player and a very good one, having recently won the Tennessee State Handball Tournament in singles and doubles for his division.

“I’ve been playing since my freshman year in college,” says, the 43-year old engineer. “I was trying to find a phys ed class, and it was the only thing that was open. I really enjoyed it and had a knack for playing it. I play in the B level, which is the next level down from the Open level where the professionals play.”

Handball is one of the oldest of ball games and can be traced back to the baths of Rome. As the name implies, you hit the ball with the palm of the hand although the back of the hand can be used. Gloves must be worn to prevent moisture from affecting the ball. The immediate forerunner of the modern game was developed in Ireland about 1,000 years ago. In the modern game, the ball, the four-wall court, and the scoring system developed in the 1800s, and it was brought to America in the 1880s. The ball is made of rubber, measures 1 7/8 inches in diameter and weighs about 1.5 to 1.75 ounces. The game is played to 21 points. Handball requires a combination of skill, which few other sports demand.

“You have to have good hand-eye coordination,” said the tournament

champion. “You have to be able to use both hands. There is a combination of dexterity, speed, endurance, power, quickness to cut shots off the wall and flexibility. It is also a mental game. You have to anticipate based on the shot you hit what the other guy will be able to do and what do you need to do next. It takes both physical and mental abilities to win.”

Invest In People

Since racquetball came along, there are less handball players around said Hendricks. In Nashville, there are about 45-50 who play regularly and most of them play at the Downtown YMCA.

“I try to play twice a week,” said Hendricks. “If I’m getting ready for a tournament I’ll throw in a couple extra times. My body can’t stand more than two or three real hard days. The joints don’t last as long as the rest of you does.”

Hendricks has been playing in handball tournaments since college and says it is just his competitive nature. As in any sport the way one practices and plays in a tournament are different.

“In tournament play, you spend the first part of the first game figuring out what the other guy’s weaknesses are,” said Hendrix. “If you ever get somebody that has a weak spot on the court, in tournament play you’ll hit it there every time. You are playing to win and win as easily as you can. You can play as many as five or six matches in a weekend. We play the best-of-three matches. If you keep them down to winning those first two games, it is really important as the weekend goes on. The biggest difference between tournament play and playing like we were today is in a tournament you find the other person’s weakness and hit it there every time. In practice, I’ll work on a variety of shots and so will my opponent.”

Somewhere between, basketball, golf and handball, Hendrix actually finds time to be the flood plain management expert for the District. Flood plain management has been an area that has been rapidly growing as more opportunities have

Continued on next page

Third Annual C.A.S.T. For Kids Held On Center Hill Lake

by Terry Martin, ranger, Center Hill Lake

On Sept. 16, Thirty-eight disadvantaged children participated in the 3rd Annual C.A.S.T. (Catch A Special Thrill) For Kids Event was held at Ragland Bottom Recreation Area on Center Hill Lake. C.A.S.T. For Kids emphasizes the value of introducing an extraordinary resource, children, to the beautiful outdoors. The children were teamed with bass club members and other fishermen and their boats for an approximate 2-3 hour fishing excursion. Fishing gear such as rods, reels and tackle boxes were given to the children for use during the day's events as well as for use in future outings.

Immediately following the fishing, all the participants were treated to lunch. Gifts, t-shirts and awards were presented to all the children. C.A.S.T. is a national organization that coordinates events such as this one all across the United States. On a national level, these events are sponsored by BASS (Bass Anglers Sportsmen Society), Triton Boats, Plano, and Zebco. On the local level, this event

was sponsored by U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Upper Cumberland Bass Anglers Club, Sparta Bass Club, Lighthouse Christian Camp, Alan Jackson, and many local businesses who donated everything from fishing hooks to snack cakes. Also, numerous other volunteers donated their time and talents. All the children, many of which had never been fishing or in a boat on the lake, enjoyed the day. But it was difficult to tell who enjoyed the day more, the children or the bass fishermen.

The staff at the Center Hill Lake Resource Manager's Office would like to sincerely thank all of the participants and sponsors for making this special event such an overwhelming success. And we would also like to give a special thanks to all of the volunteers who unselfishly donated many hours of work, without which, this event would not have been possible. □



Courtesy of Center Hill Lake

This year's C.A.S.T. for Kids on Center Hill Lake gave 38 children the opportunity to spend a day fishing on the lake with local anglers and learning about the outdoors.



Courtesy of Center Hill Lake

Following the District's emphasis on water safety each child was fitted with a life vest before going on the water during Center Hill Lake's C.A.S.T. for Kids.

Continued From Page 14

opened up to provide these services to more people, said Hendrix, and his tenacity off the court is being tested with this challenge. Hendrix's next athletic challenge involves kids and may be you.

"I want to help start a youth program for handball at the YMCA in Murfreesboro," said Hendrix. "There are fewer and fewer people playing the game and there are not that many places to play. It's such a great game that I want to help pass the sport along to others. In that vein, if there is anyone out there who wants to play or learn handball. I'd be more than happy to help them get started and work with them." □



Above: Dave Hendrix (left) hits a corner kill shot as his opponent can only watch knowing that he will not be able to recover the shot.

Right: Dave Hendrix concentrates as he catches a ball off the back of the court. In four-wall handball courts, all four walls can be used to play.



Corps Does Well at Corporate Challenge

Story and Photos by Dave Treadway

Teams from Nashville District acquitted themselves well at the Corporate Challenge October 14 in Metro Center.

The weather cooperated with a beautiful sunny day and the crowd reflected the same disposition. Teams arrived early and erected tents or parked staging vehicles on their assigned piece of real estate. Jim Deal's truck served as home base for 21 runners, walkers and cyclists from the Corps of Engineers.

The Corps team of Cayce Tiesler, Gary House and Mike Wilson then kicked off the competition at 8:30 a.m. with a stellar performance on the stationary cycles, the first year for that event. They easily won first place with a combined total of 21 miles in the allotted time, besting Deloitte & Touche, who totaled only 19 miles. Tiesler set the pace for all competitors with a total of 8 miles and won a Corporate Challenge Director's Chair, which will be delivered for his use. His time of 5:13 in the mile run helped lead his team to a second place in

that event. If that wasn't enough, he also turned in a super performance in the 3 mile run to help his team place second in that event.

The 3 Mile Masters Men's Team of Lt. Col. Pete Taylor, Jim Deal, and Jody Stanton also captured the first place team award with outstanding runs by each member.

Each event was allowed three entries and combined times determined placement. Other events, placement and team and team members were:

1 Mile Open - 2nd Place - Cayce Tiesler, Jim Deal, Maj. Rick Shelton

1 Mile Veterans Men - 2nd Place - Dave Day, Tom Waters, Danny Hampton

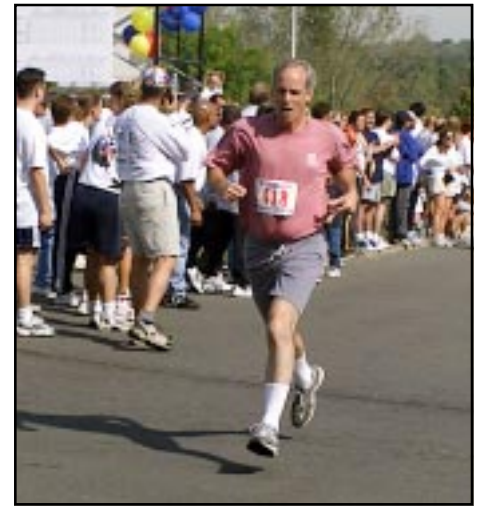
1 Mile Masters Men - 2nd Place - Bill Fanning, Lt. Col. Pete Taylor, Jody Stanton

3 Mile Women - 2nd Place - Carrie Knapp, Kathy McClanahan, Kathryn Firsching

3 Mile Open - 2nd Place - Cayce Tiesler, Doug Mullendore, Maj. Rick Shelton

Trophies were awarded to the top three teams in each division. Those teams were Lipscomb (with 513 points), Belmont 2nd, FedEx 3rd.

Other Corps competitors were Sue Crofutt, Joanne Mann, Warren Bennett, Todd Hagan, Bill Barnes, Lyla Lewis, Janie Billingsley, Jay Sadler and Doug Delong. □



Jody Stanton, chief, Geology Section, Geotechnical Branch, runs in one of Masters Men's Team races during the Corporate Challenge. Stanton helped the one-mile and three mile Masters Men's Team from the District capture second place in the one mile run and first place in the three mile run.



Lt. Col. Pete Taylor completed for the Master Men's Team events and with strong runs in the one mile and three mile events helped led the team to second place in the one mile run and first place in the three mile run.



Joanne Mann, legal assistant, Office of Counsel, runs in one of women's events during the Corporate Challenge held at Metro Center.



Left: Dave Day (left), deputy district engineer for Project Management and Bill Barnes (right), chief of the Real Estate Division competed in the Veteran Men's One Mile event during the Corporate Challenge.

"Mass transit is one thing we are going to look at," said Zoccola. "The other big item is to find a surface lot within a reasonable walking distance to the building and to possibly subsidize the payment for employees for that lot. We also going to look at shuttling people from Old Hickory and J. Percy Priest."

The number one concern voiced by respondents in the survey was safety, followed by cost and convenience.

"We have had employees, particularly female employees accosted while walking to work, and employees have had their cars broken into, some of them more than once, so safety is the number one issue," said Zoccola. "People are willing to walk a little farther and pay a little more as long as it is safe. Safe in leaving their car and safe in their walk to the building."

The GSA Garage has limited parking available. CELRN-LM Regulation 210-1-1 covers the use of the GSA Garage and how the parking spaces are allocated. The regulation is available from the Logistics Management Office. Currently the Nashville District leases 139 parking spaces in the garage. They are broken down on a priority basis as follows: 31 spaces for government vehicles; five spaces for physically challenged employees; 14 spaces for executive parking; 70 carpool spaces and 19 individual spaces.

Parking issues can have a great effect on employee morale as demonstrated by the survey.

"We had comments about not being able to find parking if you come to work late," said Zoccola. "One person came in late after a doctor's appointment and after trying to find a parking space and literally could not find one, had to go home and take annual leave the rest of the day. In Engineering, we've had at least one employee who was interviewed and offered a position and turned it down. One of the reasons he gave was because of the parking around the building."

Because of increased development over the last few years, parking spaces near the Federal Building have been done away with and increased competition for those left have made them expensive. The highest monthly price indicated on the survey was \$85 a month, but most of the

Trail Guide Offers Career Advice For All Employees

The Army Senior Executive Service (SES) office has recently published a short "Trail Guide for Army's Future Leaders" on the Internet to assist employees at all grade levels and in all occupations. The Guide provides basic career development tips and links to other career development information on the Web, e.g., the technical, managerial and executive core qualifications needed for career progression and developmental opportunities.

"Although there are no SES positions here in the Nashville District, there are in the Corps and in the Army," said John Restey, chief, Human Resources Office, Nashville District. "The Trail Guide helps you progress in your career. Regardless of what grade you are, the Guide will give

you advice on what to do next."

The Succession Management Study (1999) and the comments received during "Think SES" career development workshops established that many employees do not know what competencies, experiences and other factors are required for advancement nor where to obtain this information.

The Senior Level Diversity Panel recommended that this guide should be published. The address for the Guide is http://cpol.army.mil/train/guide_fl/trail_guide.ppt. The point of contact at Headquarters, Department of the Army is Linda Warner, who can be reached at linda.warner@hqda.army.mil or (703) 695-2975 or DSN 225-2875. □

lots charge over \$50 for monthly parking. The trend looks towards increased development, which may continue to take parking spaces away and increase the competition for the limited number high priced spaces.

The next step is to implement those recommendations, which can be done locally and to ask Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permission to implement others.

"We are moving forward on the mass transit issues, including providing the mass transit benefit and ways to reduce our footprint in the building," said Taylor. "We are going to put together a proposal to go through Division to Headquarters to lease some parking near the building and



Limited metered parking along Ninth Street is some of the only parking available for visitors to the Federal Building and these spaces are heavily used each day.

the worse that can happen is for them to say 'no.' The office and division chiefs came to me and said that this is an issue that we really needed to take on. I'm very impressed with what the Parking Committee has done so far and know that if we are going to achieve any success it will be through their efforts. I'm very supportive of the effort and committed to achieving a better parking solution for our employees. A solution that makes sense and is cost-effective and efficient." □

The Corps Crowd

Congratulations to...

... Carol Warren, executive officer, Executive Office upon the marriage of her son, Christopher Warren to Joy Sieg on Aug. 12.

... Wallace J. Lovell, Old Hickory Power Plant, who has completed the Nashville Districts' Hydropower Training Program to the Senior Power Plant Electrician level.

... Lynn Bowden, audiovisual production specialist, Information Management, received a special award for his volunteer work with the Circle Players theatrical group. He received the prestigious "The Fred Schlater Award" for Theatrical Career Excellence, which is only given on an occasional basis to individuals who over a long period of time have brought a creative spirit to the theatrical environment. Since 1981, Bowden has designed sound effects and engineered over 3,000 performances at the Circle Theatre in the Tennessee Performing Arts Center's Andrew Johnson Theatre. Circle Players is Nashville's oldest and longest running volunteer community theatre group, and is celebrating their 50th Anniversary this year.

... Tom Cayce, chief, Programs Branch, Plans, Programs, whose son, Jeff, graduated from Tennessee Technological University on Aug. 5 with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration.

... Rob Karwedsky, archeologist, Project Planning Branch, was named the "Conservationist of the Year for 2000" at the Annual Meeting for the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association (TSRA). He received the award for his efforts in water conservation and protection.

... Mike Zoccola, deputy chief, Engineering-Construction Division, who has been nominated for the Engineer of the Year for the National Society of Professional Engineers.

... Tim McClesky, chief, Soils and Dam Section, Geotechnical Branch, who has been nominated as the Black Engineer of the Year for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Farewell to...

... Charlie Grider, East Kentucky Area Power Project Manager, upon his retirement in August.

... Phil Claywell, Cordell Hull Power

Plant Senior Electrician upon his retirement in September.

... Robert (Dick) Copeland, Nashville Area Power Project Manager, upon his retirement in September.

Welcome to...

... Donnie Dixon, lock & dam operator who is transferring from Wilson Lock from Pickwick Lock.

... Ray Duke, senior electrician, who is transferring from Old Hickory Power Plant to Cordell Hull Power Plant due to Phil Caywell's retirement.

... Melissa Latham, new Construction Inspector at Lake Cumberland Resource Office. She will begin work on November 5.

Wedding Bells to...

... Erika (Newman) Davis, Engineering Co-op Student, Plans, Programs and Project Management, who was married in Detroit, Mich., on Aug. 12.

... Jennifer Blackburn, daughter of Zan and Jackie Blackburn, who married Jason Duff on Sept. 30, in White House, Tenn. Zan Blackburn is the Resource Office Assistant at J. Percy Priest Resource Office.

Baby Brigade to...

... James and Amanda Sowell on the birth of their son Jalan Devion. Jalan was born Aug. 17, weighing in at 5 pounds and 7 ounces. Sowell is an Engineering Technician at the Nashville Repair Station, Old Hickory, Tenn.

... Ken Lawson, whose daughter Melodey gave birth on Sept. 1, to a 9-pound, 21 and 1/2-inch baby girl. Her name is Ellie Michele Lawson. Both mother and daughter are doing fine. Lason is an electrical engineer stationed at Electrical Services Unit.

... Greg Raleigh whose son, Michael Joseph, was born on Sept. 1. Michael weighed 8 pounds, 11 1/2 ounces. Raleigh is a power plant electrician A at Wolf Creek Power Plant.

... Tom Pirkle, Construction Branch, has joined the ranks of grandfatherhood. Madelyn Elizabeth Pirkle, daughter of Tom's son, Aaron, arrived on Sept. 18, weighing in at 7 pounds, 1 ounce.

... Connie and Bud Hardeman on the birth of their fourth grandchild, Jacob Ross

Wheeley. Jacob was born on Sept. 18, to Barbara and Ross Wheeley.

Sympathy to...

... Herb Sharbel, chief, Internal Review, on death of his mother on Aug. 20.

... David Stafford's on the death of his mother, Mary Martha Seymore, on Sept. 1. Stafford is a mechanic A at Cheatham Power Plant.

... Donnie Dixon, lock & dam operator at Wilson Lock, whose brother, V. Doyle Dixon, passed away on Oct. 7.

Thank you from...

... Sandy Bennett, Cheatham Lake Resource Office. "Thanks to all of my friends and co-workers in the Nashville District for their kind and thoughtful expressions of sympathy following the recent death of my mother.

... Judy Smith, former administrative assistant, Executive Office. "Dear Corps family: When I left the Corps of Engineers in August to continue my education I thought I would never hear from some of you again. But when I lost my mother on October 8, I was so touched by the visits and the cards that I received and still continue to receive each day. I want each of you to know that this support has been appreciated more than words could ever say. I thank each one of you that went that extra step to reach out to me during this time. I miss you all. Thanks again." □



Joe Morrison, landscape architect, Cost Estimating and Management Support Branch, reviews a landscape architectural drawing for the Metro Center Levee project. (See *Fisher's Group* story page 19.)

Trail Continued From Page 12

ation. Teresa and I also enjoy the Dale Hollow Lake Trails and they provide some different scenery but we come here most often, even though it is a 45-mile drive," continued Elam.

"I tell people about the trail all the time, those who I talk to or chat with online. Teresa says if I keep on, visitors will make it a crowded place but that's okay. It's a great trail and I would like for others to enjoy it. What I don't like to see," said Elam as he pointed to a discarded beer can, "is trash that people leave. It's amazing that they can carry it in here when it's full but can't carry it out when it's empty." He shook his head, "I haven't been able to figure that out."

Colvin is a big fan of the Twin Forks Trail. "My goal," he said, "is to open the trail along its entire length before I retire from the Corps of Engineers."

The east end of the Twin Forks Trail is on the East Fork of the Stones River at Highway 231 below Walter Hill Dam and the west end is at Nice's Mill on the West

Fork just off Sulphur Springs Road. Between those two points are peaceful glades that parallel both the river and adjacent farmland to give riders a pleasant place to exercise their mounts.

"Eventually," said Corps Ranger Scott Fanning, "we want to have the entire trail with the safest route marked with signs for both horse and rider so everyone can enjoy the trail with confidence."

"To ride the entire trail," said Fanning, "and return to the starting point, is tough to do in one day. It is a leisurely day trip to start at East Fork Boat Ramp and go west to Nice's Mill and return or either go east from there to Walter Hill Dam and return. If someone rides the entire length of the trail in one day, they may start at Walter Hill Dam and have someone pick them up at the end of the day at Nice's Mill."

Currently, the Twin Forks Trail is open to riders on horseback and to hikers. Title 36 does not permit vehicles of any kind on the trail. Mountain bikes, according to Fanning, are permitted on roadways, gravel and paved roads, only. Some of the

Twin Forks Trail network lies upon graveled, agricultural roads. There may come a time, said Fanning, when non-motorized bicycles will be allowed on a greater portion of the trail network.

National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is the invention of the National Environmental Education & Training Foundation. This annual September event brings volunteers of all ages and backgrounds together to work and learn on public lands – those special places where Americans go to hike, camp, fish, view wildlife, and just enjoy the great outdoors.

In 1999, NPLD truly became a national event with more than 30,000 volunteers working in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico at 186 sites – more than double the previous year. Many state, city, and county lands were included in the effort. Workers accomplished more than \$5 million in improvements to public lands.

Toyota Motor Corporation last year became the first national sponsor of the event and provided more than 1,000 volunteers in 12 states. □

Fisher's Group Continued From Page 13

We try to match up the project with an available firm."

Flatt continued explaining the A-E contract process, "We usually work with the project managers and technical managers to scope the contract. We then do a government estimate for that work and at that point we can go out with a Request for Proposal from a firm. They will come back with their proposal. We, usually with the project manager, negotiate a fair and reasonable cost for the contract with the A-E and then document the negotiation. Next, we get it funded, doing the PR&Cs, etc. We then package it and send it over to Contracting for them to award it. After a contract is in place we continue to monitor it in case it needs to be modified."

Two unique specialty areas in Fisher's group are architecture and landscape architecture with the branch having one each of these specializations.

"I'm the only architect and Joe Morrison is the only landscape architect currently working in these positions although we have a couple of people on staff who are architects by profession but are now working in other areas," said John Manor, District architect. "I'd say 85

percent of what I do is managing and reviewing the work of A-E firms who are working on our projects. I help develop scopes and do a lot of preliminary designing. I make sure the A-Es provide us what we need. I enjoy it but sometimes it is frustrating when you live and breath design and would love to be doing it all yourself."

One useful tool Manor helped develop was a Natural Resources Building Requirements Contract, which developed a set of designs and standards for natural resource facilities.

"We used to get a contractor to design a comfort station, picnic shelter, a bathhouse or whatever we needed and we'd do that every time we'd do one, but they all tended to be the same," said Manor. "Patty Coffey, Mark Hallar, Jose Garcia and I worked together to design a standardized package with a basic design for these different types of facilities and a checklist for design features so that resource managers can more efficiently and cost-effectively get a bid for one of these facilities."

The branch in addition to the Architecture and Landscape Architecture has some other specialty areas, which provide support including specification, reloca-

tions, surveying, military installation support and CADD systems support.

"We have some great people in our Branch who provide vital services to the District," said Fisher. "Jose Gracia and Mark Hallar do technical specifications for all of our construction contracts; Buddy Abbott and Luis Noble do our relocation design and contract actions, John Coode provides surveying support to the entire the District, and Buddy Greek specializes in our military installation support to both Fort Campbell, and the Army Reserve, and Jim Brady and J.R. Kirk keep the CADD system up and running for everyone. Each one of them provides unique support and has a great deal of expertise in their area."

"Bill Fisher is just a real pleasure to work with," said Flatt. "He is a great boss and he sets the tone for this branch. I've worked in other branches, which was a good experience, but I love what I'm doing now and working with the other people in this branch. What's great is that we get to work with so many other people, in the District, in other Districts and with our A-Es."

If you are an engineer or project manager in the Nashville District and the workload get too heavy or the crystal ball a little fuzzy, who you gonna call? Bill Fisher's group. □

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The Regional Business Center Corner

Did You Know..... Mike Barton of the Buffalo District is leading a team preparing plans and specifications for Chicago District on Chicago Shoreline. Tom Fogarty of Chicago District is heading a group conducting an independent technical review for Buffalo District on Astabula Harbor. David Wong of Detroit District is assisting Louisville District in construction management at Detroit Arsenal. Mark Kessinger of Huntington District is leading a Corps-wide team supporting the National

Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA) in Sandusky, OH at the Plumbrook Facility. Jeff Bayers of Louisville District is part of a team assisting Nashville District on plans and specifications for a new miter lock gate at Kentucky Lock. · Jim Lowe of Pittsburgh District is leading a team assisting Chicago District in design for the Little Calumet River pump station rehabilitation.

Revolutionize Effectiveness

Across the Corps! This approach is catching on across all Corps offices. We have opportunities to assist or be assisted by other districts outside our division boundaries. Jodi Stanton of Nashville District is on the team assisting Mobile District in determining the geology at Anniston Army Depot in Alabama. Boyd McClellan of Louisville District is leading a group assisting Norfolk District in topographic surveys for Fort A.P. Hill. St. Paul District is conducting an independent technical review for Chicago District on Cady Marsh.

What does all this have to do with you?

These activities reflect the Regional Business Center (RBC) in action. What is the RBC you might ask? Is it something new? Is it a special organization? No it is simply a method of operation – a new way

of doing business. It is a corporate partnership among all seven districts and the division office. This new approach to mission accomplishment promotes the effective and efficient use of all the assets within the region (Chicago, Detroit, Buffalo, Huntington, Louisville, Nashville, and Pittsburgh Districts and the division office) as well as those outside the division in executing missions and programs for the Army and the nation. Essentially we are trying to bring the best available skills to bear on an issue to improve our opportunity for success and to better serve our customers.

What does it mean to you?

It means that there will be more opportunities to be involved in exciting new projects or initiatives that reach beyond your district area. It means exposure to technical challenges that you may not be able to experience in your current area of operations. Continue to watch for this corner in the future. As valued members of the RBC, we want to share our challenges and successes to better acquaint you with what the RBC can mean to you.

If you wish to contribute an idea or other information that highlights the RBC in action, please contact Garry Gerlach at 513-684-3756. □

